

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 MCE-00 NRC-05 EB-08 /074 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA: MAJ INGRAM

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM: SJLEDOGAR

OUSDR AND E:CDEJONGE

OSD: AMB KOMER

OASD/PA:JRFREEMAN

EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE,JR.

-----034245 240009Z /70

O P 232300Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

INFO USLOSACLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 160914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, TAD

SUBJECT: NATO ARMAMENTS COOPERATION--FAMILY OF WEAPONS

REFS: (A) THE ECONOMIST, JUNE 3, 1978, PAGES 58-59

(B) USNATO 05827 DTG 081615Z JUNE 78

(C) STATE 148135 DTG 101825Z JUNE 78

(D) USNATO 06224 DTG 201649Z JUN 78

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS FOR POSTS' USE IN ANSWERING
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US-PROPOSED "FAMILY OF WEAPONS" CONCEPT.
THE CONCEPT HAS COME TO PUBLIC NOTICE RECENTLY AS A
RESULT OF AN ECONOMIST ARTICLE OF JUNE 3 (REF A). THE CON-
CEPT WOULD PACKAGE GROUPS OF INTER-RELATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS
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--SUCH AS ANTI-ARMOR, AIR-TO-GROUND, AND AIR-TO-AIR
WEAPONS--IN A WAY THAT WOULD OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF
BROADER PARTICIPATION BY NATO MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT
AND PRODUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS
COULD GIVE A MAJOR BOOST TO ARMS COOPERATION IN NATO,

WHICH WAS ONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S THREE NATO DEFENSE

INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE MAY 1977 NATO SUMMIT.

2. THE PERTINENT PART OF THE ECONOMIST ARTICLE STATED: "THE PLAN (THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM ADOPTED BY LAST MONTH'S NATO SUMMIT) LOOKS FAR ENOUGH AHEAD TO PERMIT THE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR IT TO BE CONCEIVED, DESIGNED AND PRODUCED IN A MORE ORDERLY AND LESS INEFFICIENT WAY THAN UNDER THE PRESENT EVERY-COUNTRY-FOR-ITSELF SYSTEM. BUT THERE WAS ALSO A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ARMAMENT DIRECTORS OF FRANCE, GERMANY, BRITAIN, AND THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED TO GET ARMS COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA WORKING FASTER. FOUR FAMILIES OF WEAPONS WILL BE AFFECTED: ANTI-TANK, AIR-TO-SURFACE, AIR-TO-AIR, AND ANTI-SHIP. WITHIN THE ANTI-TANK CATEGORY, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL DEVELOP HEAVY WEAPONS AND THE UNITED STATES MEDIUM, AND PERHAPS LIGHT, ONES; IN ANTI-SHIP AND AIR-TO-AIR WEAPONS, THE UNITED STATES WILL DEVELOP LONG-RANGE ONES AND EUROPE SHORT-RANGE; AND IN THE AIR-TO-SURFACE FIELD SEVERAL WEAPONS ARE EARMARKED FOR EXCLUSIVE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS A BOLD EXPERIMENT, AND THE MOST PROMISING EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION YET."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA OR NATO ALLIES, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- THERE WAS NO ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT THE SUMMIT REGARDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US, FRANCE, FRG, AND UK ON FAMILIES OF WEAPONS, AS REPORTED BY THE ECONOMIST.

-- THE US RAISED THE FAMILY OF WEAPONS CONCEPT WITH NATO ALLIES AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATO CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS LAST OCT 25-26. THE US REPRESENTATIVE, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING DR. WILLIAM PERRY, PROPOSED THAT, IN ORDER TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS BY INDIVIDUAL NATO MEMBERS, ALLIES SHOULD WORK OUT AGREEMENTS ON FAMILIES OF WEAPONS WHERE EACH COUNTRY AGREES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A GIVEN SYSTEM IN THE FAMILY AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES AGREE TO BUY THAT SYSTEM INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE FROM THE SINGLE MANUFACTURER. BY THIS CONCEPT OF MUTUALLY AGREED FAMILIES OF SYSTEMS WE CAN ACHIEVE THE MILITARY BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION, AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SHARED PRODUCTION AND REDUCED UNIT COST.

-- THE US SUBSEQUENTLY HAS DISCUSSED THE FAMILY OF

WEAPONS CONCEPT WITH FRANCE, FRG, AND UK. THEY AGREE
THAT THE APPROACH HAS PROMISE, BUT NO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

HAVE BEEN AGREED ON.

-- THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) RECOMMENDS
SEVERAL POSSIBLE WEAPON FAMILIES FOR COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT BY
THE ALLIES ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE FAMILIES.

4. IF ASKED, POSTS SHOULD ALSO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS
TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS:

-- WE SUGGEST THAT THE ALLIANCE BEGIN CONSIDERATION
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OF THE FAMILY OF WEAPONS CONCEPT IN TERMS OF THE
FOLLOWING WEAPONS FAMILIES TAKEN FROM THOSE IDENTIFIED
BY THE LTDP FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

. A FAMILY OF AIR-TO-GROUND WEAPONS, WHICH MIGHT
INCLUDE SUCH WEAPONS AS THE FRENCH ATLIS II LASER
DESIGNATOR FOR A SINGLE PLACE AIRCRAFT, A GERMAN
MULTI-PURPOSE SUBMUNITION, A BRITISH AIRFIELD ATTACK
SYSTEM, AND THE US MAVERICK GUIDED WEAPON.

. A FAMILY OF ANTI-SURFACE SHIP MISSILES (ASSM). A
NATO ASSM PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED UNDER FR, UK,
AND FRG LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH THE US AND OTHERS ARE
PARTICIPATING IN A MORE LIMITED WAY. COMPLEMENTING
THIS EFFORT, THE US IS DEVELOPING A LONGER-RANGE
ANTI-SURFACE SHIP MISSILE.

. A FAMILY OF ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS. FRANCE, THE
FRG, AND THE UK HAVE AN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN
REPLACING CURRENT SYSTEMS. THE US HAS SIMILAR
REPLACEMENT NEEDS AND IS SEEKING A COOPERATIVE APPROACH
WITH ITS ALLIES.

-- THE US HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER WORK ON
THE WEAPONS FAMILY APPROACH TO WEAPONS HARMONIZATION
BY THE CNAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE
NATO LTDP, AS WELL AS BY COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL
ALLIES THAT HAVE PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS. WE INTEND
TO PROPOSE AT THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE MEETING IN
BRUSSELS JUNE 28-29 THAT THAT FORUM TAKE UP INITIALLY
THE FAMILIES OF ANTI-ARMOR AND ASSM WEAPONS (SEE
SEPTEL).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY PLANS, DEFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE160914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAJ INGRAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0122
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780624/aaaaauwg.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2461782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 THE HAGUE 1978, 78 USNATO 5827, 78 STATE 148135
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2222622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO ARMAMENTS COOPERATION--FAMILY OF WEAPONS
TAGS: MPOL, SOPN, US, NATO
To: NATO POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2461782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014